Preserve this

Leicester, June 29. 1840.

My dear George,

Yours of the 19th was rec'd. on the 23d – with a Postscript from Louisa, and we are glad to hear that you are all well. – I did not think hard of you for not coming up here at the time of the Worcester Convention – though we looked for you, and should have been very glad to see you. I concluded you were much absorbed by the business, & interest in the scene before your eyes, all the time you were there, and supposed you felt that as you had come to Worcester, you wished to be at Worcester; I knew also you would feel greatly fatigued by the close of Wednesday, and, in fine, the occasion itself was a sufficient apology for not thinking of other matters. – For myself, I did not feel any particular personal interest in the assemblage; nor can I participate much in an enthusiasm which seems to me in a great measure forced. – I don't know that I shall not vote for Genl. Harrison (if I live to vote at all), but I am not sure of it; if I do, it will

MS.B.1.6 v.1.p.14

go hard with me. I confess I do not see how Abolition-
ists ~~cannot~~ can consistently vote for him. They can do so,
only on the principle of making a choice between two evils -
between 2 men, both of whom ally themselves with the
Slaveholding interest & Power, the great bane & curse of our
Nation, in a political view, not less than in a moral or
Social. Slavery has ruled our land too long; but even
now, see with what shamelessness our great men bow
the knee to receive its mandates. I cannot bear to think of
Daniel Webster's getting up in Alexandria, and calling on
Southern Politicians to bear witness for him, that he
is sound, on the Peculiar Institution! — Is there no one
left? have they all gone over & shaken hands with
the Fiend? — Now I must acknowledge that there
is never any necessity of choosing between 2 evils; we
may refuse to have anything to do with either. And
I cannot but admit that, should the Abolitionists, by
throwing their votes for Abolitionists & only those, defeat Genl.
Harrison's election ~~the Election~~ ~~& give it to Van Buren~~ and, by throwing the
election into the H^e. of Representatives, thus be the means of

securing Van Buren's election, however great an evil this might temporarily be (and I will admit to be as great as you please), yet would it be a glorious event for the Cause of Emancipation. And why? Because it would teach the Whigs, & Tories too, such a political lesson as they would never forget. It would do more, than any thing else, to ensure the nomination of true men in future. It would be bringing the question of Slavery before the nation, so that they could no longer wink it out of sight, or refuse to give it a hearing. And you, & every Abolitionist, must allow, that Abolitionists have got to take this stand, some time or other, & be true to their principles; till they do, they never will be respected, & their influence never will be felt; they will be used by each party, & by both parties, and always told to wait till "a more convenient season" — This seems to me the true view of the matter; I should be very glad to hear your views. — I admit that, the moment we set the Slavery Question aside, or make it subordinate, ~~that~~ there the choice is quickly determined in favour of Govt. H. —

Sarah has written to her Aunt Ward, to invite her & Mr. Ward, and all of the family, to come up here on the 4th July. Mr. Ward told Sarah, a long while since, that when the 4th July came on a Saturday or Monday, he would

come & pass it at Leicester. We hope they will come. — We shall be glad to see Miss Harriet Ward & Louisa, on their way from Northampton. I thank Louisa for her part of the letter and, but for expecting to see her here so soon, should write her in reply.

June 29 1840.
Sam. J. May —
as to voting
for Gen. Harrison,
&c. &c

George J. Davis Esqr.
Greenfield (Mass.)

LEICESTER. MASS.
JUN 30

Sarah sends love to you all — in which I truly join. We should like to visit you this summer, & thank you for yr. invitation but it is not probable that we shall get so far to the West.

Very truly yours Saml. May Jr.

Ms. B.1.6 v.1, p.14